



**Lori E. Lightfoot**  
Mayor

**Department of Police · City of Chicago**  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

**Eddie T. Johnson**  
Superintendent of Police

July 15, 2019

**Via Email:**

Matt Chapman  
MuckRock  
[76125-63348642@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:76125-63348642@requests.muckrock.com)

**RE: NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST**  
**FOIA FILE NO.: P504137**

Dear Matt Chapman:

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received July 8, 2019 for the following:

*"Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act., I hereby request the following records:*

*A copy of all shapefiles used, created, or accessed by CPD."*

Your request was reviewed by the undersigned in collaboration with the Department's Information Services Division. It was determined that your request for "all shapefiles" is denied as it is way too broad.

Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that "requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." 5 ILCS 140/3(g). In order to comply with your request as written, this department would need to identify, procure, and review an extraordinary amount of data (the lack of time frame contemplated in your request making this task onerous in its own right.) Without direction from you as to which specific map layers, data sets, and time frames you seek, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this Department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts have held, "[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]" *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request "reasonably describes records if 'the agency is able to determine precisely what records are being requested.'" *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)).

At this time, your request as currently written is unduly burdensome. Pursuant to Section 3(g) of FOIA, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it more manageable. CPD

encourages you to review your request to ascertain the details of your query. If there is a specific map layer for a dataset over a particular time frame in which you are interested, it may be possible to conduct a search with these additional parameters. Once this is determined, a new FOIA request can be submitted to CPD, specifying the records you would like CPD to provide. Please let me know if you need assistance in narrowing. Unless and until a new FOIA request is submitted that specifies what records you are seeking, CPD will be unable to process your request.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the following address:

Chicago Police Department  
Attention: Freedom of Information  
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653  
[foia@chicagopolice.org](mailto:foia@chicagopolice.org)

You have a right of review by the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or by telephone at 877-299-3642. You may also seek judicial review under 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

A. Marlan  
Freedom of Information Act Officer  
Chicago Police Department  
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114  
3510 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60653